

**Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting  
April 15, 2014  
Carlisle Town Hall – Heald Room**

Board Members Present: Abha Singhal, Liz Thibeault, Liz Bishop, Verna Gilbert, Elizabeth Acquaviva, Jean Sain, Melinda Lindquist, Peggy Hilton, Lillian DeBenedictis, Joanne Willens, Tom Dunkers. Associate Members Present: Stephanie Blunt, Mary Daigle. COA Staff Present: Angela Smith, David Klein. Friends Representative: Carolyn Shohet. Guests: David Freedman, Stephanie Smith, Giovanna DiNicola, Linda Cavello-Murphy, Patty Russo

The meeting commenced at 7:03 pm. Abha Singhal, Chair, presided. The Hiring Committee introduced Linda Cavello-Murphy as the candidate for the Administrative Assistant position. Linda spoke briefly about her background and questions were welcomed. A *motion* was made by Verna Gilbert to approve the hiring of Linda Cavello-Murphy as the COA Administrative Assistant. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by voice. The Board of Selectman will need to approve the hiring at their next meeting. Introductions were then made around the room.

**Secretary Minutes** – A *motion* was made by Joanne Willens to accept the March Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Acquaviva. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report** – Verna Gilbert presented the financial report. For guests, David Klein discussed how the General Fund works. A *motion* was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the March report. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

**Outreach and Program Manager's Report:** Angela Smith indicated an increase in residents requiring COA services due to Benfield Farms opening. A *motion* was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the March report submitted by Angela Smith. The Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

**Social Worker's Report:** The topic of Minuteman Senior Services involvement in some situations was discussed.

**Director's Report including Transportation Report:** Topics of discussion were the various articles on the Town Warrant that directly affect the COA, the revolving account (the COA is allowed to spend up to \$25,000 a year in a revolving account. This sum includes such fee-based offerings such as classes, lunches, van rides and goes out to pay for instructors and other expenses), the level-funded operating budget (no change from last year with the exception of a 2% cost of living increase for staff. Last year it was 2.25% COL increase). Also discussed was the pilot program for seniors and disabled residents. Lastly, Abha Singhal and David attended a Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Meeting organized by Minuteman Senior Services. A MassMobility Rep as well as representatives from many surrounding towns attended. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a RCC that would meet every 2 months to discuss and share information on unmet transportation needs. There will be presentations from established councils as well as from representatives from the State who will discuss grants and other resources available from the State. There are three established transportation projects: Cross-town Connect, Middlesex 3 (route 3 corridor) 495 partnership (495 corridor) in our area. A *motion* was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the March Social Worker's report submitted by Peter Cullinane and the March Director's Report including Transportation submitted by David Klein. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

**Senior Day Trips** – Joanne Willens was unable to attend the meeting so David Klein gave an update. The Newport theater trip is a long day, but enjoyed by the attendees. Day trips in general have been well attended. Upcoming trips include the Paper House in Rockport, MA

**MMSS** – Jean Sain reported that March for Meals had the biggest turnout ever with over 30 selectmen, senators and local leaders participating. At the April MMSS Board Meeting, Joan Butler presented a slide show featuring MOW drivers and the legislators who accompanied them on their runs, pictured in front of the various COA offices. Ten staff and two Board members attended the Mass Home Care Lobby Day at the State House on March 24. They visited legislators to advocate for home care funding in the FY15 budget. In addition, Joan Butler visited Benfield Farms open house. Joan was very impressed with the facility. She is hoping MMSS will be able to provide services at Benfield Farms. The MMSS Board broke up into two groups to discuss affordable care management specifically for middle class people (Private Pay) with high care costs. Private Senior Care Managers charge as much as \$150 per hour. The facilitator discussed some of their unmet needs and asked the Board members to give examples of the needs of people they may know and how these needs could be met. Transportation is always a concern. The

subject of seniors living out of town was another topic. It was a lively discussion and we were thanked for our input. Minuteman Senior Services will be looking into all suggestions and ideas.

**Friends Update:** Carolyn Shohet indicated that the FOCCOA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting will be held on June 1 at Benfield Farms Common Room 3-5 pm. The guest speaker is Christine Lear and the topic is WGBH: Past and Present.

**Old/New Business:**

Long Range Planning - Liz Thibeault indicated that she, Liz Bishop and the LRP Committee are putting finishing touches on the document. A hard copy of the plan will be available for each Board Member by the end of the first week in May so that members can review it prior to a separate Board Meeting where any recommended changes to the plan can be addressed. The Board Meeting to review the LRP is May 13 at 7 pm. The next step after this meeting and any revisions to the document is for the LRP Committee to do a power point presentation to the Board of Selectmen in June. This plan is a great tool for the BOS and the Finance Committee as well as the town's people.

Guest – David Freedman was not asking for the COA to take a position, but wanted to speak about his concerns with a warrant article (No. 22 A&B nonbinding article) regarding affordable housing on Banta Davis land. Although David is a member of the Planning Board, he stated he was speaking as a concerned citizen.

A *motion* was made to adjourn the meeting by Verna Gilbert. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. A Board Meeting with the COA Long Range Planning Subcommittee will be on May 13, 2014 at 7 pm. The next regular COA Board Meeting will be held at **Town Hall Clark Room at 7:00 pm on May 20.**

Elizabeth Acquaviva  
COA Board Co-Secretary